1030 Highland Ave.
Visalia, Ca. 93277
January 15, 1975

Dear

I am writing to request your help in saving my cabin at Mineral King. In December I was informed by the Forest Service that they intended to cancel the lease and have the cabin removed after the coming summer to make way for an expanded parking lot, which the Forest Service considers a higher use of the land.

My brother-in-law, Louie became the sole legal owner of the lease at the time of my husband's death. Before that, he and Frank were co-owners. Louie has received a letter from the Forest Service saying that he has until January 27 to appeal the decision, however because of his health problems, Louie is unable to do anything to protect his rights, and my high blood pressure has prevented me from doing as much as I would like. I feel this unfair decision must be appealed. If it is not, I will not have a leg to stand on, as the Forest Service can say there was no opposition.

Our cabin is probably the oldest and most used one at Mineral King, having been built by the Barboni family in 1905. It has almost become the hospitality center of Mineral King since the destruction of the store and post office. Last summer alone, we listed 525 visitor days up until Labor Day, and there have been many users since that date. This is not to mention all the drinks of water, rests, refreshments and information I have given hikers, campers and passers-by.

If all of you who have enjoyed the fellowship of the Barboni cabin would be willing to be a part of the appeal to the Forest Service, I have hopes that this decision can be overturned. As you know, there is certainly adequate space at Mineral King to develop parking areas without demolishing my cabin. In fact, the cabin site would hardly accommodate more than 10 extra cars unless the Forest Service intends to bulldoze away more trees and manzanita. In addition, a few years ago, the cabin owners offered to help the Forest Service develop more parking areas and there was no response from the Forest Service.

My suggestion is that you write the Sequoia National Forest Supervisor, Mr. John Leasure, 900 W. Grand, Porterville, Ca. 93257 (phone 209-284-1500) asking that the decision to cancel the lease be rescinded and that the cabin be put on a year-to-year lease until such time as a higher need for the land can be demonstrated, as are the other cabins at Mineral King. Ask him to make your letter a part of the record of the hearing on our cabin and request that a date for a personal hearing be set on a Saturday so that everyone concerned can participate. I have been told that the Forest Service office does not remain open on weekends, but I feel it is really important that they make an exception in this case because many people who, I am sure would be willing to testify, live too far away to attend a week-day hearing. I also urge that you send a copy of your letter to our new Congressman for this district, The Honorable John Krebs, 435 Cannon Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. His local address is Federal Building, 1130 "O" St., Fresno, Ca. 93721 (phone 209-487-5487.) He does not know a great deal about the Mineral King controversy, but seems eager to learn, and has no pre-conceived ideas, which is refreshing. I am also asking him to intervene for me with the Forest Service. If you live in another Congressional district, contact your own Congressman. Just address your letter to him at House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Any contacts you have with other governmental officials are important at this time because the Forest Service is making a very determined effort to get rid of the cabins and to gain a tighter grip on Mineral King.

If we can have the hearing room filled to overflowing with people, I am sure it will make the Forest Service think twice about this unfair and arbitrary decision. We can do it if you will all help. I know the time is short and I hope you will act today.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Barboni
(209) 734-6137

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